AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Specification in accordance with the following corrections:

On page 22, please correct the 2nd full paragraph, with the following correction:

It can be any attribute that can be derived from picture elements expressed in multiple tones, which constitute image data. The applicable data may be binary data, ~~RGT~~ RGB data, or luminance data computed from the RGB data. Of course, the choice of attribute is not limited to these, but if the attribute can express the state of image data, it can be altered as appropriate.

On page 29, please correct the 9th full paragraph, with the following corrections:

Figs. 12A-12C ~~illustrates~~ illustrate the process of preparation a distribution from differences of tone levels in the difference of tone levels computation.

On page 30, please correct the 1st through 5th full paragraphs, with the following corrections:

Figs. 14A-14B ~~illustrates~~ illustrate an example of storage of picture element characteristics.

Figs. 15A-15B illustrate ~~illustrates~~ another example of storage of picture element characteristics.

Figs. 16A-16C illustrate ~~illustrates~~ a specific example of edge picture element.

Figs. 17A-17C illustrate ~~illustrates~~ a specific example of moiré picture element.

Figs. 18A-18C illustrate ~~illustrates~~ a specific example of intermediate picture element.

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On page 32, please correct the paragraph, continuing from page 31, with the following correction:

Further, picture elements among with picture elements which have smaller vector values but cannot be determined to be moiré picture elements are relatively dominant are determined to be intermediate picture elements. At the picture element characteristic determining step A2, all the picture elements are sequentially scanned to execute this determination procedure. When every picture element has gone through determination as to whether it is an edge picture element, a moiré picture element or an intermediate picture element, at an image data retouching step A3, with respect to image data entered from the image data acquisition step Al, prescribed ~~sharpening~~ smoothing is executed on picture elements which were determined as constituting edge picture elements, while prescribed sharpening is executed on picture elements which were determined as constituting moiré picture elements. What were determined as constituting intermediate picture elements are subjected no processing at all. At the image data retouching step A3, as at the picture element characteristic determining step A2, all the picture elements are sequentially scanned to execute image data retouching.

On page 32, please correct the paragraph, continuing onto page 33, with the following correction:

In carrying out such image data retouching, at an image data attribute specifying step ~~A4~~ AL1 the attribute to be handled in the image data retouching, such as luminance signals or RGB

signals, are specified. This may be specified either by the user or as dictated by the composition

of image data. Therefore, if luminance signals are specified as the attribute, at the image data

retouching step A3 image data retouching is executed according to the luminance data of each

picture element or, if RGB signals are specified as the attribute, image data retouching is

executed according to the RGB data of each picture element.

On page 39, please correct the paragraph continuing from pages 37 and 38, with the

following correction:

Referring to the chart scanning, the operator of the color copying machine 10, after

placing the object of scanning on a flat bed 21 of the color scanner 20, presses down the scan

start button 35a on the operation panel 35. This causes the color scanner 20 to start scanning in

accordance with the above-described operational procedure. First, in order to generate image

data consisting of picture elements of a prescribed resolution for the overall image of the flat bed

21 including the object of scanning, the color scanner 20 executes scanning (step S100). Then,

in retouching the generated image data, it executes image data attribute selection to select the

attribute of the image data to be retouched (step S150). Then, using the picture elements of the

generated image data as the object picture elements, it executes difference of tone levels

computation on the basis of the selected attribute to compute differences of tone levels of the

object picture elements from surrounding picture elements (step S200), and executes picture

element characteristic determination on the basis of these differences of tone levels to determine

whether each picture element is an edge picture element, a moiré picture element or an

intermediate picture element (step S300). Next, the color scanner 20 executes image data

retouching to sharpen the picture element if it is an edge picture element, smoothes the picture

element if it is a moiré picture element, or holds the original data of the picture element if it is an

intermediate picture element (step S400). This image data retouching is also executed on the

basis of the selected attribute. Upon completion of this image data retouching, the color scanner

20 executes image data conversion to generate print data to be fed to the color printer 40 (step

S500), and the print data converted from the image data are transferred to the color printer 40,

and printed out by this color printer 40. Thus, since the attribute of the image data to be

retouched are selectable, if for instance image data retouching is desired to be executed quickly,

luminance signals can be selected as the attribute, or if high picture quality is desired for the

result of image data retouching, ~~RGG~~ RGB signals can be selected as the attribute, resulting in a

desired image data retouching environment in either case.